

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 249106

TODEP 84

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, DIA, INFO CINCSO, NOV 9,
FROM LA PAZ RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 7320

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, BL

SUBJECT: BOLIVIAN CABINET RESIGNS

1. DURING CABINET MEETING EVENING NOVEMBER 8, PRESIDENT BANZER FIRED COLONEL JUAN PATINO A. AND MIGUEL AYOROA FROM THEIR CABINET POSTS ALLEGEDLY BASED ON EVIDENCE SUPPLIED BY OFFICERS CAPTURED DURING THE SANTA CRUZ REBELLION THAT THEY WERE IMPLICATED AS LEADERS OF THAT COUP ATTEMPT.

2. ON NOVEMBER 9, ENTIRE CABINET PRESENTED RESIGNATIONS IN ORDER TO GIVE BANZER FREE HAND TO REORGANIZE GOVERNMENT. THIS GESTURE WAS IN RESPONSE TO A LETTER FROM THE ARMED FORCES HIGH COMMAND TO BANZER RECOMMENDING THE INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS AND THE FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT OF " NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION".

COMMENT:

3. BANZER MAY ATTEMPT TO FORM A CIVIL-MILITARY CABINET WITHOUT REFERENCE TO POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION, AND PROBABLY WILL
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RE-APPOINT

SEVERAL OF THE RECENTLY RESIGNED MILITARY CABINET MEMBERS.

4. USDAO REPORTS THAT IN ADDITION TO CAPTIVES BROUGHT BACK TO LA PAZ BY BANZER ON NOVEMBER 8, TWO MORE PLANE LOADS OF PRISONERS, INCLUDING 14 MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARRIVED IN LA PAZ FROM SANTA CRUZ ON NOVEMBER 9. USDAO FURTHER REPORTS THAT UNITS OF THE VIACHA REGIMENT SENT TO SANTA CRUZ DURING THE FIGHTING HAVE RETURNED TO LA PAZ, AND ELEMENTS OF THE COCHABAMBA CITE FORCES ARE REPORTEDLY RETURNING TO THEIR HOME BASE AS WELL.

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES POLITICAL SITUATION HIGHLY FLUID AT THIS TIME, ALTHOUGH BANZER REGIME SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN CONTROL FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MONTH AT LEAST. WE EXPECT TO PROVIDE ANALYSIS OF SHORT RANGE OUTLOOK ONCE COMPOSITION OF NEW CABINET IS KNOWN. STEDMAN UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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